

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

INRE-00 SSO-00 PM-03 SP-02 L-01 OMB-01 PRS-01 /039 W
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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7029

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

JCS

DOD

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LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: TDS

TAGS: MILI, RP

SUBJECT: PHIL BASES: MELCHOR'S CALL ON SECDEF

TOKYO FOR SECDEF

REF: A. STATE 205866

B. MANILA 11978

C. MANILA 11549

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS REF A, I AM SEEKING MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS TO DISCUSS MELCHOR "AIDE-MEMOIRE". BECAUSE I RECEIVED INSTRUCTION FRIDAY AFTERNOON AND WEEK-END MAY INTERVENE, I MAY HAVE DIFFICULTY SEEING MARCOS UNTIL NEXT WEEK. I THINK MARCOS WILL COMPREHEND ISSUES RAISED IN PARA 2 REF A AND SHOULD BE WILLING TO DROP THE IDEA OF FORMAL CONSULTATIONS UNDER ARTICLE III. HOWEVER, IF YOU SEE MELCHOR BEFORE I SEE MARCOS, I HOPE YOU WILL LET HIM HAVE BOTH BARRELS ON THIS ISSUE.

2. PARAGRAPH 3 OF YOUR MESSAGE DISTURBS ME BECAUSE I THINK IT WOULD BE A SERIOUS TACTICAL MISTAKE FOR YOU TO

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ASK MELCHOR TO DEFINE THE STATUS OF HIS DOCUMENT ON

RESTRUCTURING THE BASES. SINCE IT IS A PRODUCT OF HIS
THINK-TANK, AND HE IS ITS PRINCIPAL CONCEPTUAL EXPONENT,
HE WILL NATURALLY TELL YOU THAT IT HAS MUCH MORE SIGNIFICANCE
THAN I HOPE TO PROVIDE IT IN OUR NEGOTIATIONS.

3. YOU WILL NOTE FROM REF B THAT I EXPECT TO RECEIVE A
NEGOTIATING DOCUMENT FROM MARCOS ON OR ABOUT SEPTEMBER 4;
I.E., WHILE MELCHOR IS STILL IN WASHINGTON. I AM WORKING
INFORMALLY WITH SEC DEF PONCE ENRILE (WHO DISDAINS
MELCHOR'S RESTRUCTURING CONCEPT) TO TRY TO GET A REALISTIC
NEGOTIATING DOCUMENT WHICH WILL BE TRACTABLE TO OUR USE
AND INTEREST. I HOPE TO HAVE THIS DOCUMENT MERELY ALLUDE
TO "RESTRUCTURING" CONCEPT AS A TASK FOR THE FUTURE.
WHILE I MAY FAIL IN THIS ENDEAVOR, I WILL HAVE MY BEST
CHANCE TO SUCCEEDING WHILE ALEX IS OUT OF TOWN. I WOULD
THEREFORE HOPE YOU WILL AVOID MESSING UP MY MANEUVER BY
GIVING MELCHOR THE IMPRESSION THAT WE ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT
HIS BROCHURE AS AN ACCEPTABLE BASIS FOR DISCUSSION. HE IS
NOT, INCIDENTALLY, THE DESIGNATED NEGOTIATOR FOR THESE
DISCUSSIONS, AND SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN WASHINGTON
ENCOURAGEMENT TO PLAY SUCH A ROLE.

4. I WOULD RECOMMEND INSTEAD THAT YOU LOOK AT COPIES OF
HIS MASTERPIECE, POINT OUT SOME OF ITS OBVIOUS PROBLEMS,
AND TALK IN TERMS OF LONG LEAD TIME NECESSARY TO MOVE IN
ITS DIRECTION. I WOULD WANT NO RPT NO OCCASION FOR MELCHOR
TO STATE OFFICIALLY TO ANYONE IN WASHINGTON THAT HIS
BROCHURE HAS FORMAL STATUS. AS INDICATED REF C, THIS IS
A MAXIMUM PHILIPPINE POSITION WHICH WE MUST LIQUIDATE AS
RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE.

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